

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08867 071449Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 /102 W
-----096719 080812Z /20

R 071022Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2072
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8867

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP IN US
SUBJECT: DELHI PRESS COVERAGE OF PM DESAI'S FIRST DAY IN LONDON

1. THIS MORNING'S DELHI PAPERS PROMINENTLY FEATURE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S FIRST DAY IN LONDON. SEVERAL HEADLINES EMPHASIZED HIS REMARKS ON THE U.S. AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN DELIVERED AT A PRESS LUNCHEON. TYPICAL HEADLINES READ: " 'SUPER POWER PRESENCE ALL OVER WORLD', DESAI EXPRESSES CONCERN" ("STATESMAN") AND "DESAI TELLS US, USSR TO KEEP OFF OCEAN" ("HINDUSTAN TIMES").

2. DESAI'S REMARKS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN DURING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION RECEIVED THE MOST PROMINENT ATTENTION IN MOST ARTICLES. ACCORDING TO THE UNI DISPATCH, THE PM RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ON THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BY SAYING: "MUCH MORE THAN THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION IS THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...I
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08867 071449Z

CANNOT ORDER OUT ANYBODY FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE SUPER POWERS COULD ONLY BE PERSUADED TO KEEP OFF THIS AREA." PTI QUOTES DESAI'S RESPONSE AS FOLLOWS: "MUCH MORE THAN THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION, THERE IS ALSO THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES. I AM CONCERNED WITH ITS PRESENCE. I AM CONCERNED NOT ONLY WITH THE PRESENCE OF SUPER POWERS, BUT I AM CONCERNED WITH THEIR

PRESENCE ALL OVER THE WORLD."

3. ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC POLITICS IN INDIA APPARENTLY TOOK UP THE BULK OF DESAI'S REMARKS AT THE LUNCHEON, A FEW OTHER INTERNATIONAL TOPICS WERE RAISED. ON NUCLEAR POLICY, BOTH PTI AND UNI QUOTE THE PM AS STATING THAT INDIA WAS "SECOND TO NONE IN OPPOSING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND IN SUPPORTING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. SINCE OUR STAND IS BASED ON EQUALITY, DIGNITY AND HUMAN WELFARE, WE ARE CONVINCED OF OUR ABILITY EVENTUALLY TO EVOLVE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE BURNING PROBLEM OF TODAY AND TOMORROW." ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESSMEN THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WAS NO SETTLEMENT AT ALL AND THAT HE WANTED DEMOCRACY AND MAJORITY RULE TO PREVAIL NOT ONLY IN RHODESIA BUT ALSO IN NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. "ARE ARE WORKING FOR IT, BUT WE CANNOT WORK IN A PUBLIC MANNER."

4. THE "TIMES OF INDIA'S" LONDON CORRESPONDENT WROTE THAT PM DESAI'S REMARKS TO THE CORRESPONDENTS WAS A TYPICAL MORARJI PERFORMANCE, WITH THE PM DEFTLY PARRYING QUESTIONS AND EXPOUNDING IN HIS USUAL PHILOSOPHICAL STYLE IN WHAT THE "TIMES" DESCRIBED AS "HIS CURIOUS HABIT OF STONEWALLING."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08867 071449Z

5. THE INDIAN WIRE SERVICE DISPATCHES PROVIDE ONLY VAGUE AND SPECULATIVE REPORTING OF DESAI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN. FOR EXAMPLE, PTI REPORTED THAT AMONG THE SUBJECTS "BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED" WERE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AND DISARMAMENT. HOWEVER, THE LONDON CORRESPONDENTS OF SEVERAL DELHI PAPERS WROTE ACCOUNTS OFFERING THEIR SPECULATION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CALLAGHAN/DESAI TALKS. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, AFRICA AND NUCLEAR POLICY FIGURED PROMINENTLY. THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" CORRESPONDENT WROTE THAT "THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ON WHICH THEY REACHED FULL UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT WAS THE CRITICAL SITUATION DEVELOPING IN AFRICA FOLLOWING THE INCURSION OF KATANGAN 'REBELS' INTO KOLWEZI AND THE INTENTION OF WESTERN POWERS FOR SOME SORT OF JOINT ACTION TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR ATTACKS ON ZAIRE AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES." HE ALSO WROTE THAT "MR. CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF MR. DESAI'S STAND ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BY INDIA FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES." THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE "STATESMAN" ALSO ADDRESSED THE ZAIRE QUESTION:

"INDIA HAS ALWAYS HELD - AND THIS POINT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE MEETING TODAY - THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA WITH ITS IMPLICATIONS ON SUPER POWER RIVALRY FOR INFLUENCE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEGENERATE INTO A NEW COLD WAR NOR SHOULD THE CURRENT MOVES BY BRITAIN, THE USA, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND BELGIUM TO AID ZAIRE AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES BE PERMITTED TO DETER DETENTE."

6. MOST DISPATCHES FROM LONDON REPORT THAT PM CALLAGHAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON ZAIRE WHILE WAITING FOR DESAI'S ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE "INDIAN EXPRESS" CORRESPONDENT WROTE THAT "MR. VAJPAYEE TOLD MR. CALLAGHAN THAT HE WAS A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE EVENTS IN AFRICA AND EXPRESSED THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 NEW DE 08867 071449Z

HOPE THAT THE FIVE-POWER AGREEMENT WOULD NOT COME IN THE WAY OF DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT HOT UP THE COLD WAR."

7. FOR LONDON: WE ARE REPORTING THIS LOCAL COVERAGE OF DESAI'S LONDON VISIT IN SOME DETAIL SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE COVERAGE IN THE INDIAN PRESS IS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN IN THE U.K. PRESS. WE THOUGHT THIS UNUSUAL TREADING ON YOUR TURF ADVISABLE IN LIGHT WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN FULL COVERAGE OF DESAI'S PRE-US VISIT STATEMENTS, ETC.
BLOOD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE08867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0440
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780686/aaaacwby.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 42355e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2455174
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELHI PRESS COVERAGE OF PM DESAI'S FIRST DAY IN LONDON
TAGS: PDIP, SOPN, OVIP, IN, US, (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/42355e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014